

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for screening and blocking certain telecommunications sent via a communication network by telemarketers or other message senders is disclosed. This service is provided to subscribing parties that initiate the telecommunications. A periodically updated "do-not-contact" database is incorporated in cooperation with network nodes to block screened messages from being delivered to an intended destination that is listed in the database. Screening and blocking can be accomplished on the customer premises or at a network node shared with non-subscribing parties. The network node ignores messages sent from non-subscribing parties. Various marking or screening techniques can be used to identify those telecommunication messages sent from or on behalf of subscribing message senders. Blocking is accomplished by various techniques including audio disconnect instructions routed back to a human agent, or actuating coded signals to automatically cancel delivery in accordance with the updated database.